Dear Jim, 6/27/75

The past ten days have been exceptionally intensive and I think rather productive.

It took time to prepare for the NYC junket and regardless of all other considerations what it reqyired that I learn of Hugh McDonald and associates is a worthwhile by-product.

While I was there I got updated on the electronic media situation on the specials.

It has all required much sleeplessness I feel again. I'll have to rest more this weekend, with the recollection of what can happen from the pneumonia-pleurisy spell. But the real problem is that these things must be done.

And I've not mowed grass for more than 10 days. The outside work accumulates.

I met with Sen. Mathias and an aide on the Church committee staff yesterday and will have at least two more mettings with them here, separately Wednesday with the staffer and after Mac returns from a European trip afterward.

Mac had asked that the staffer arrange the meeting for when he could be there. I had stayed away from him because of a number of considerations, one being that until he moved I knew it would be unwise to believe him ready to move. Another is that he knows me and my work from way back, when he tried hard to help me.

Perhaps it took them over from the condition in which the Ervin committee left them, but the committee's quarters are in the auditorium of the new Senate off. bldg. Improvised, with tight physical seourity. They also have rented quarters for private meetings nearby.

This staffer, Bob Kelley, is one of whom I knew because I had been phoned by one who had been asked to appear by him. My phoner asked my advice because he knew I knew what they would want of him.

My advice was sought on the three most important points in an assassination investigation. I gave them off the top of the head and then explained a general approach as a modification of what I believe is the most that can be expected:

That the committee look into the operation of the federal agencies in the assassinationsand include Presidential commissions as an agency.

And if this were to be done I proposed a Mathias Report that, except that it would be honest, would belike the Erwin committee's Baker report. And would have a documentary appendix.

I offered that if this were to be done I'd provide all the evidence needed. If it meant I'd be giving a book I just canat afford to print away. I had asked for confidentiality on the first call and been promised it. I explained it yesterday.

I made a similar proposal to Mac, in abbreviated form. He seemed to agree. He did agree on the general approach and on the certainty that the committee would not be able to meet its major obligation fully, which indicated to me that it should eliminate all the work it could. (Lowenstein agreed with my belief that the Church committee had been fed the assassinations situation that has taken all its time because the stories were not need and would dilute what it could do on the more important and less exposed domestic material.)

It was my position that while some of the evidence is beyond any question in its meaning and that all agencies malfunctioned, even an open question about a significant item of evidence is enough to justify inclusion and that were there merely these unanswered questions there would be basis for a recommendation that the Senate look into the federal agencies as they functioned in those crises. This is close enough to Church's position.

However, there is no doubt about the fact or the evidence that I have in hand.

I told Mac that if he took this approach he'd have no real work to do because I have it all done for him. He associated himself with my past work with his staffer. HW